

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

1-69. (Cancelled)

70. (Previously Presented) Registration apparatus associated with a premises for self registering a user without intervention by personnel of the premises, said registration apparatus comprising:

a processor and a memory operably coupled thereto;

a user interface including a display for displaying registration information relating to locations of the premises and a data entry for entering user information, said user interface being operably coupled to said processor for coupling the registration information and the user information therebetween for self-registering a user,

wherein a completed self registration defines one or more locations of the premises and defines dates and/or times for permitted access to the one or more locations, and

wherein said processor provides access information representative of the one or more locations and of the dates and/or times for permitted access to the one or more locations defined by the completed self registration;

a supply of access cards, each access card including a card memory for storing access information therein, but not having access information pre-stored therein, wherein the access card is not a credit card and is not for conducting a credit transaction; and

a card issuing device for providing at least one of the access cards for each self registration, said card issuing device comprising:

a card writer being operably coupled to said processor for storing the access information related to the completed self registration in the card memory of the access card for enabling access related to the defined locations of the premises;

wherein the access information stored in the card memory of the access

card defines the one or more locations of the premises and defines the dates and/or times for permitted access to the one or more locations in accordance with the completed self registration; and

a card dispenser for dispensing the at least one access card having stored in the card memory thereof the access information defining the one or more locations of the premises and defining the dates and/or times for permitted access to the one or more locations in accordance with the completed self registration,

whereby a user can self register at a premises and receive an access card having that user's access information stored therein for accessing defined locations of the premises in accordance with his self registration and without intervention by personnel of the premises.

71. (Previously Presented) The registration apparatus of claim 70 further comprising:
 - a personnel management system wherein a worker access card has personnel information, access information, or both, stored in the card memory thereof,
 - said personnel management system further comprising a time recording system linked thereto, said time recording system including one or more time clock stations, each time clock station comprising:
 - a card reader for reading personnel information, access information, or both, from the card memory of the worker access card,
 - a memory for storing the personnel information, access information, or both, read by said card reader from the card memory of the worker access card,
 - a card writer for storing date and time information in the card memory of the worker access card, and
 - a processor for controlling operation of said card reader, said card writer and said memory,
 - whereby a record of the dates and times of use of the worker access card is stored in the card memory of the worker access card and in the memory of the time clock

station.

72. (Previously Presented) The registration apparatus of claim 71 wherein:
 1. said personnel management system and said time recording system are linked directly or indirectly via a communication link; or
 2. said personnel management system and said time recording system are linked via a data transfer card; or
 3. said processor and said memory recited in claim 70 include the processor and the memory, respectively, of said time clock station; or
 4. any combination of the foregoing.
73. (Previously Presented) The registration apparatus of claim 70 wherein the registration information relates to rooms, areas, facilities, services, or any combination thereof, at the premises, and to the status thereof, the availability thereof, or both.
74. (Previously Presented) The registration apparatus of claim 70 wherein the user information includes selection of a room, area, facility, service, or any combination thereof, at the premises.
75. (Previously Presented) The registration apparatus of claim 70 wherein the user information includes personal information, credit information, identifying information, loyalty program information, or a combination thereof.
76. (Previously Presented) The registration apparatus of claim 70 the access card is a magnetic stripe card having a magnetic stripe card memory, a smart card having a processor and an electronic memory, or both.
77. (Previously Presented) The registration apparatus of claim 70 in combination with at least one access device responsive to the access card for enabling access responsive to

the access information stored in the card memory of the access card.

78. (Previously Presented) The registration apparatus of claim 77 wherein said access device includes a memory for storing access information from the card memory of the access card utilized with said access device.
79. (Previously Presented) The registration apparatus of claim 70 in combination with a property management system providing at least part of the registration information.
80. (Previously Presented) The registration apparatus of claim 70 wherein the access information related to the registration information and the user information includes an identifier of a room, area, facility, service, or a combination thereof, for which access using the access card is authorized.
81. (Previously Presented) The registration apparatus of claim 70 wherein the registration information, the user information, or both, include, at least in part, information communicated to said processor from a source external to said registration apparatus via a communication link.
82. (Previously Presented) The registration apparatus of claim 81 wherein said communication link includes a network, telephone, the Internet, or a combination thereof.
83. (Previously Presented) A registration system associated with premises for self-registering a user without intervention by personnel of the premises, said registration system comprising:
 - a processor and a memory operably coupled thereto;
 - a user interface including a display for displaying registration information relating to locations of the premises and a data entry for entering user information, said user interface being operably coupled to said processor for coupling the

registration information and the user information therebetween for self-registering a user,

wherein a completed self registration defines one or more locations of the premises and defines dates and/or times for permitted access to the one or more locations, and

wherein said processor provides access information representative of the one or more locations and of the dates and/or times for permitted access to the one or more locations defined by the completed self registration;

means coupled to said processor and responsive to a credit card for effecting credit verification, credit authorization, billing, payment, or a combination thereof, for the self registration;

a supply of access cards, each access card including a card memory for storing access information therein, but not having access information pre-stored therein, wherein the access card is not a credit card and is not for conducting a credit transaction; and

a card issuing device for providing at least one of the access cards for each self registration, said card issuing device comprising:

a card writer being operably coupled to said processor for storing the access information related to the completed self registration in the card memory of the access card for enabling access related to the defined locations of the premises;

wherein the access information stored in the card memory of the access card defines the one or more locations of the premises and defines the dates and/or times for permitted access to the one or more locations in accordance with the completed self registration; and

a card dispenser for dispensing the at least one access card having stored in the card memory thereof the access information defining the one or more locations of the premises and defining the dates and/or times for permitted access to the one or more locations in accordance with the completed self registration; and

a plurality of access devices each including a reader for reading access information stored in the access card for enabling access to a respective location of the premises responsive to the access information stored in the card memory of the access card,

whereby a user can self register at a premises and receive an access card having that user's access information stored therein for accessing defined locations of the premises in accordance with his self registration and without intervention by personnel of the premises.

84. (Previously Presented) The registration system of claim 83 wherein the registration information relates to at least one of rooms, areas, facilities and services at the premises and at least one of the status and availability of same.
85. (Previously Presented) The registration system of claim 84 wherein the user information includes selection of at least one of rooms, areas, facilities and services at the premises.
86. (Previously Presented) The registration system of claim 83 wherein the access cards include a magnetic stripe card having a magnetic memory stripe, a smart card having a processor and an electronic memory, or a combination thereof.
87. (Previously Presented) The registration system of claim 83 wherein the access cards include a contact-type smart card, a wireless-type smart card, or a combination thereof.
88. (Previously Presented) The registration system of claim 83 in combination with a property management system providing at least part of the registration information for said self registration.
89. (Previously Presented) The registration system of claim 88 wherein said property

management system is run on said processor.

90. (Previously Presented) The registration system of claim 88 wherein said access device is operably coupled to one of said processor and said property management system for communicating access information therebetween.
91. (Previously Presented) The registration system of claim 83 wherein the user information includes personal information, identifying information, loyalty program information, selection of at least one of rooms, areas, facilities, services at the premises, or any combination thereof.
92. (Previously Presented) The registration system of claim 83 wherein said means for effecting is responsive to a smart card credit card, a magnetic stripe credit card, or both.
93. (Previously Presented) The registration system of claim 83 wherein at least one of the registration information and the user information includes, at least in part, information communicated to said processor from a source external to said registration system via a communication link.
94. (Previously Presented) The registration system of claim 93 wherein said communication link includes a network, telephone, the Internet, or a combination thereof.
95. (Previously Presented) The registration system of claim 83 wherein at least one access device includes an electronic lock providing selective access to a given location of the premises, and wherein the access information stored in the card memory of a given access card is for enabling access to that given location during a predetermined period of time, said electronic lock including a clock for providing the selective access to the given location only during the predetermined period of time.

96. (Previously Presented) The registration system of claim 83 wherein worker-related information is stored in the card memory of a worker access card, said registration system further comprising a time-clock station responsive to the worker-related information stored in the card memory of the worker access card for recording at least time information relating to a worker.
97. (Previously Presented) The registration system of claim 83 wherein the access card is a loyalty card.
98. (Previously Presented) The registration system of claim 83 wherein the access card includes at least one of an accessible memory into which information can be stored and a secure memory storing unchangeable information for providing different levels of access, different levels of security, or both.
99. (Previously Presented) The registration system of claim 83 wherein said premises includes a hotel, motel, resort, lodging facility, hospitality facility, or a combination thereof, and wherein said plurality of access devices includes at least an electronic lock for a room thereof.
100. (Previously Presented) The registration system of claim 99 further comprising a property management system providing registration information relating to availability of rooms at the premises.
101. (Previously Presented) The registration system of claim 83 wherein said user interface further includes means for providing a tangible receipt including the registration information, user information, or both.
102. (Previously Presented) The registration system of claim 101 further comprising a property management system providing charge information relating to charges to an account, wherein insertion of an access card related to a given account into said user

interface causes the property management system to provide charge information related to the given account and causes said means for providing a tangible receipt to provide the tangible receipt including the charge information.

103. (Previously Presented) An electronic registration system associated with a premises including a number of spaces, wherein said electronic registration system provides self registration without intervention by personnel of the premises, said electronic registration system comprising:

at least one processor and at least one memory operably coupled thereto;
a property management system including a computer program stored in said at least one memory and operating in conjunction with said at least one processor for processing registrations for the premises;

a user interface operably coupled to said at least one processor and said property management system for self registering a user in relation to at least a given one of the spaces of the premises, wherein said property management system provides registration information related to each self registration;

a supply of access cards, each access card including a card memory for storing access parameters therein, but not having access parameters pre-stored therein, wherein the access card is not a credit card and is not for conducting a credit transaction;

a plurality of electronic access devices, wherein each access device is associated with one of the spaces of the premises for enabling access to that one of the spaces of the premises responsive to access parameters stored in the card memory of an access card;

an access control system including a computer program stored in said at least one memory and operating in conjunction with said at least one processor for defining access parameters for said plurality of electronic access devices, wherein the access parameters define a given one or more of the spaces;

a card issuing device operably coupled to said at least one processor for storing registration information from said property management system and access

parameters from said access control system in the card memory of a given access card of the supply of access cards,

 said card issuing device including a dispenser for providing the given access card in response to registering a user for the given space, the given access card having the registration information and the access parameters for a given self registration stored in the card memory thereof for enabling one or more of said plurality of electronic access devices for access to the given space, to one or more others of the spaces, or both; and

 a personnel management system including a computer program stored in said at least one memory and operating in conjunction with said at least one processor for defining worker information relating to at least one worker associated with the premises, wherein said card issuing device issues an access card from said supply of access cards, the access card comprising a worker access card having worker information relating to a given worker of the at least one worker and access parameters for spaces of the premises stored in the card memory thereof,

 whereby a user can self register at a premises and is issued an access card having that user's access parameters stored therein for accessing defined spaces of the premises in accordance with his self registration and without intervention by personnel of the premises, and

 whereby a worker is issued a worker access card having that worker's access parameters stored therein for accessing defined spaces of the premises.

104. (Previously Presented) The electronic registration system of claim 103 further comprising at least one time clock station responsive to the worker access card for recording worker information stored in the card memory thereof.
105. (Previously Presented) The electronic registration system of claim 104 wherein said at least one time clock station records date information, time information, or both, relating to the worker access card in the card memory of the worker access card, in a memory included in said time clock station, or both.

106. (Previously Presented) The electronic registration system of claim 103 wherein the worker access card has access parameters stored in its card memory for enabling predetermined ones of said electronic access devices for providing access to predetermined ones of the spaces at the premises.
107. (Previously Presented) The electronic registration system of claim 103 wherein the access card is a loyalty card adapted for storing registration information relating to a plurality of registrations of a given user.
108. (Previously Presented) The electronic registration system of claim 103 wherein said plurality of electronic access devices include an electronic lock having a clock therein providing time information, wherein said electronic lock compares time information from the access card to time information from said clock for selectively providing access to a space defined by the access parameters stored in the card memory of the access card.
109. (Previously Presented) The electronic registration system of claim 103 wherein said plurality of electronic access devices include an electronic lock having a clock therein providing time information, wherein said electronic lock stores time information from said clock in the card memory of the access card, stores registration information from the card memory of the access card in a memory of said electronic lock, or both.
110. (Previously Presented) The electronic registration system of claim 103 wherein the access card is one of a magnetic stripe card and a smart card including a processor and a memory.
111. (Previously Presented) The electronic registration system of claim 103 wherein at least ones of said plurality of electronic access devices are operably coupled to said at least one processor for communicating registration information, access parameters, time information, or a combination thereof, therebetween.

112. (Previously Presented) The electronic registration system of claim 103 wherein the registration information includes, at least in part, information communicated to said processor from a source external to said electronic registration system via a communication link.
113. (Previously Presented) The electronic registration system of claim 112 wherein said communication link includes a network, telephone, the Internet, or a combination thereof.
114. (Previously Presented) A method for self registering a user comprising:
 - providing a user terminal for self registering a user;
 - providing a supply of access cards, each access card including a card memory for storing access information therein, but not having access information pre-stored therein, wherein the access card is not a credit card and is not for conducting a credit transaction;
 - providing a plurality of electronic access devices each operable responsive to an access card having certain access information stored in a card memory thereof to provide access to a facility or facilities;
 - receiving and displaying registration information using the user terminal;
 - allowing the user to use the user terminal to enter and optionally to change registration information;
 - allowing the user to use the user terminal to select the facility or facilities to which the user is to have access;
 - wherein the received registration information, the changed registration information, or both, and the selected facility or facilities comprise a self registration;
 - receiving credit card information for effecting billing, payment, or other credit transaction relating to the self registration;
 - whereby a user can self register for a selected facility or facilities using the user terminal without intervention of personnel of the facility or facilities;
 - storing information representative of the registration information, the changed

registration information, if any, and the selected facility or facilities into a computer;

processing the registration information, the changed registration information, if any, and the selected facility or facilities by the computer for providing certain access information representative thereof;

storing the certain access information representative of the registration information, the changed registration information, if any, and the selected facility or facilities into the card memory of the access card; and

providing the access card having the certain access information representative of the registration information, the changed registration information, if any, and the selected facility or facilities stored in the card memory thereof,

whereby the access card provided to the self registered user may be used with the electronic access devices to gain access to the selected facility or facilities in accordance with the self registration.

115. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 114 after the access card has been used in at least one electronic access device which stores use information in the card memory of the access card, further comprising:

placing the access card operably proximate the user terminal for reading the use information stored in the card memory thereof; and

completing a transaction using the information representative of the registration information, the changed registration information, if any, and the selected facility or facilities stored in the computer and the use information read from the access card.

116. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 115 wherein said completing a transaction includes effecting billing, effecting payment, or both, and providing a tangible receipt containing information relating to the completed transaction.

117. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 114 wherein said receiving credit card information includes placing a credit card operably proximate the user terminal,

entering credit information, or both, for initiating a credit transaction, and wherein said displaying includes displaying information relating to the credit transaction.

118. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 117 wherein the credit transaction includes verifying credit, authorizing credit, billing, payment, or a combination thereof.
119. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 114 wherein said storing the certain access information and said providing an access card include: placing a loyalty card operably proximate the user terminal, storing the certain access information in a memory of the loyalty card as an access card, and providing the loyalty card as the access card.
120. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 114 wherein said receiving and displaying registration information includes:
 - obtaining at least part of the registration information from a source external to said user terminal;
 - communicating information from a property management system;
 - obtaining information from a credit card;
 - communicating information with a billing/payment system;
 - communicating information with a personnel management system; or
 - a combination of any two or more of the foregoing.
121. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 120 wherein said obtaining includes communicating preregistration information via a network, telephone, the Internet, or a combination thereof.
122. (Currently Amended) A time recording and access control system associated with a premises including a number of spaces, said system comprising:
 - at least one processor and at least one memory operably coupled thereto;

a supply of access cards, each access card including a card memory for storing access information therein, but not having access information pre-stored therein, wherein the access card is not a credit card and is not for conducting a credit transaction;

a plurality of electronic access devices each adapted for enabling access to one of the spaces of the premises responsive to access information stored in the card memory of an access card;

an access control system including a computer program stored in said at least one memory and operating in conjunction with said at least one processor for defining access information for each of said plurality of electronic access devices;

a user interface for self registering a user without intervention from personnel of the premises, said user interface being operably coupled to said at least one processor and to ~~said a~~ property management system for receiving registration information relating to a given one or ones of the spaces of the premises for the self registering a user in relation to the given one or ones of the spaces of the premises;

a card issuing device operably coupled to said at least one processor comprising:

means for storing registration information from said user interface and access information from said access control system in the card memory of a given access card, and

means for issuing the given access card in response to self registering a user, the given access card enabling at least one of said plurality of electronic access devices for access to the given one or ones of the spaces of the premises; and

at least one time clock station including a clock for providing time information, wherein said time clock station is responsive to the given access card for recording registration information read from the given access card and time information relating thereto,

whereby a given access card issued in response to a self registration via a user interface is usable with one or more electronic access devices for gaining access to

one or more spaces of a premises and with a time clock station for recording time thereat.

123. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 122 wherein said user interface for self registering a user is operably coupled to said at least one processor obtaining at least part of the registration information from a source external to said system via a communication link.
124. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 123 wherein said communication link includes a network, telephone, the Internet, or a combination thereof.
125. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 122 further comprising a personnel management system including a computer program stored in said at least one memory and operating in conjunction with said at least one processor for defining parameters relating to at least one worker, wherein said card issuing device provides one of said supply of access cards as a worker access card having worker information relating to a given worker stored in the card memory thereof.
126. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 122 wherein said at least one time clock station records the registration information, the time information, or both, relating to the given access card in the card memory of the given access card, in a memory included in said time clock station, or in both.
127. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 122 wherein the given access card has access information stored in its card memory for enabling access by predetermined ones of said electronic access devices.
128. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 122 wherein said electronic access control device either compares time information from the access card to time information from said clock, or records time information from said clock in the card

memory of the access card or in a memory in said electronic access device or in both, or a combination thereof.

129. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 122 wherein the access card is a magnetic stripe card, a smart card including a processor and a memory, or a combination thereof.
130. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 122 wherein at least ones of said plurality of electronic access devices are operably coupled to said at least one processor for communicating access information therebetween.
131. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 122 further comprising means coupled to said at least one processor and responsive to a credit card for effecting credit verification, credit authorization, billing, payment, or a combination thereof, for the self registration.
132. (Previously Presented) A storage medium encoded with machine-readable computer instructions for self registering a user with respect to premises using a user terminal without intervention by personnel of the premises, said storage medium comprising:
 - means for causing the computer to receive and display registration information on a user terminal;
 - means for causing the computer to allow the user to use the user terminal to enter and optionally to change the registration information;
 - means for causing the computer to allow the user to use the user terminal to select a facility or facilities to which the user is to have access;
 - means for causing the computer to store information representative of the registration information, the changed registration information, if any, and the selected facility or facilities into the computer;
 - wherein the received registration information, the changed registration information, or both, and the selected facility or facilities comprise a self registration;

means for causing the computer to receive credit card information for effecting billing, payment, or other credit transaction relating to the self registration;

whereby a user can self register for a selected facility or facilities using the user terminal without intervention of personnel of the facility or facilities;

means for causing the computer to store certain access information representative of the registration information, the changed registration information, if any, and the selected facility or facilities into the card memory of an access card in a format for operating one or more electronic access devices associated with the selected facility or facilities,

wherein the access card does not have access information pre-stored therein, and wherein the access card is not a credit card and is not for conducting a credit transaction; and

means for causing the computer to provide the access card with the certain access information representative of the registration information, the changed registration information, if any, and the selected facility or facilities stored in the card memory thereof,

whereby the access card provided to the self registered user may be used with one or more electronic access devices to gain access to the selected facility or facilities in accordance with the self registration.

133. (Previously Presented) The storage medium of claim 132 wherein said means for causing the computer to receive and display registration information includes:

communicating credit information with a credit card having a memory, with a computer billing/payment system, or with both;

communicating information from a property management system;

obtaining information from a credit card;

communicating information with a billing/payment system;

communicating information with a personnel management system; or

any combination of any two or more of the foregoing.

134. (Previously Presented) The storage medium of claim 132 wherein said means for causing the computer to receive and display registration information includes means for causing the computer to obtain at least part of the registration information from a source external to said computer.
135. (Previously Presented) The storage medium of claim 134 wherein said means for causing the computer to obtain includes communicating preregistration information via a network, telephone, the Internet, or a combination thereof.
136. (Previously Presented) The storage medium of claim 132 after the access card has been used in at least one electronic access device which stores use information in the card memory of the access card, said storage medium further comprising:
means for causing the computer to complete a transaction using the information representative of the registration information, the changed registration information, if any, and the selected facility or facilities stored in the computer and the use information read from the access card.
137. (Previously Presented) The storage medium of claim 136 wherein said means for causing the computer to complete the transaction includes means for causing the computer to effect billing, effect payment, or both, and to provide a tangible receipt containing information relating to the completed transaction.